

WINNER OF THE KODANSHA MANGA OF THE YEAR AWARD!

MU SHI SHI

8·9·10

YUKI URUSHIBARA

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MU
SHI
SHI

8·9·10

YUKI
URUSHIBARA

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Ginko is a master of the ephemeral life-form known as *mushi*. Their influence can be as visible as a mountain never giving up its winter to allow for spring, or as subtle as a prank played in a child's game. To some they are a curse, to others they offer unimagined possibility. Read the final three volumes of Ginko's journeys in this one remarkable edition!

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MU
SHI
SHI
8, 9, and 10

Yuki Urushibara

Translated and adapted by
William Flanagan

Lettered by
North Market Street Graphics



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A Message from the Author

One New Year's Day, my grandmother watched a high school soccer game and said in a very serious voice, "It's good for kids that age to be out having fun." At that age, apparently, she had been put to work in apprentice-level jobs. It's very true that in the intervening years everything has changed. But my grandmother and her generation were there before the changes, and they're connected to us. I wonder what will become of my generation. Perhaps now is the only time we'll be able to have a sense of that fact.

—Yuki Urushibara

虫
蝨

むし

師

Mushishi

8

Yuki Urushibara

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The Milk of the Valley





You had a wound on your leg, and it seems to have taken a lot out of you.

My husband had to carry you in last night.



.....
How do you feel?



Where am I?



Where is your husband?

He saved my life.

He went to help clear out the mountain. He won't be back before tomorrow.



.....
Oh yeah..



Ha ha!

Don't put pressure on me like that!

I'll have something on the table soon that will give you lots of energy!



Ha ha!

Don't stand on ceremony. Dig in!

It's like I found myself in paradise!



This is just what I needed!







Yeah.

It's a
lot less
painful
now,
thanks to
you.



Good
morn-
ing!

Is your
leg
better?

Oh,
Ginko-
san!

He's in
the back
fields
right
now.



Your
hus-
band...

...isn't
back
yet?



...he just
ate and
went back
out again.

He came
back at
sunrise,
but...



Did
spring
come
when I
wasn't
looking?

What's
going
on?



I wasn't
imagining
it.





Look at this.

It's a very impressive field!



...
I'm in your debt.



A sweet...

smell.



What with the season and all.

How do you make them grow like this?



I just gave it my best effort is all.

The same way it always.









I
make my
living
as a
Mushishi.



I
wonder
it...

...It was
something
that you'd
consider to
be a strange
death...



Would
you know
anything
about
that?



...
I don't
know
anything.



This isn't
an easy
thing
to say,
but your
son...

...might be
under the
influence
of mushi.



I don't know if you're really a murderer or what you are.

But I won't stand to hear you badmouth my son!



If he is, then he may be the cause of that tragedy!

And his wife may also be in danger!



And don't you dare...

...say a word to her! Got it?



He saved your life, and if you plan to repay him with spite, you can leave right now!









That's true...

Before I know it, I'm out in the fields.

When I sleep, my body just seems to get all jumpy.



I've been like this forever. Ever since I was a kid.

I'm flattered that you're so worried about me, but I'm fine.



You can't seem to have a nice, long sleep, can you?



It's my will.

You're wrong.



You may not realize it, but...
...murki are causing that.

Ever since
I can
remember,
I've been
working it.



Noon
and
night...

Day
after
day
after
day...



This
is it...

A long
time ago,
it didn't
amount to
anything.



I wanted
it to
be more
abundant.

I
wanted my
family to
live more
bountiful
lives.



...the
one who
made this
valley what
it is.

I'm...





...everything
you did was
at the cost
of your
mother's
life?

Even
I...



It
burned out
just how I
wanted!



I'm
saying
this for
his own
good!



**Stop
right
there!!**

.....
What?



I thought I
told you not
to involve
yourself in
our affairs!







It's all right.

It's all right.

I apologize for overstepping my bounds this afternoon.



Take this.



You're right... I have no right to steal the bounty from this valley.



It purges mushi.



Please use it if it gets to a point where you think that you need it.





Hōichi!



It's time
for you
to come
home...



... Hōichi!!





Sit
down.

We have
something
to discuss.



Hōichi?



...that
you must
hear and
never
forget.



Could
you all
leave us
for a
while?



This is
some-
thing...





At the
time,
everyone
in the
valley was
a migrant.

It was
a hard
life for
everybody
there.



Yes...



You
haven't...

...had a
decent
meal in a
long time
either.



...can
we
possibly
do?

What...



If we
don't do
something,
Hôchi will...



There
weren't
any wet
nurses
to be
found.

We were
at our
wits'
end.



...that
is?

I wonder
what...



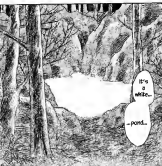
Look
at
that!

.....



What?
It...

...sweet
smell...



it's
a
white...

...pond...





Chiyo's breast
was over-
flowing
with
milk.



Dear...



I'm
so
glad/
I
really
am!



So that
water...
turned out
to be
medicine,
 huh?



And with
that milk,
Hôichi,
you grew
big and
strong.



...we
never
saw that
pond
again.

But
after that,
no
matter
how
much we
looked...



You're so pale. It's like you don't have any blood in your face.

Are you all right...?



And I'm giving plenty of milk still.

I'm fine.



But...

...on the other hand, Chiyori's health began a rapid decline.



Then...
...one day...



Oh...



Chiyori



!



Are
you
okay...?



...is
this...

This...



.....



...but
nobody
would
even
believe
me.

I
asked all
sorts of
doctors
about
it...



Have
you
ever
heard...
...of
anything
like this
happen-
ing?









Chiya... !!



It
more...

...a
tragedy.



But your
mother,
up to
her last
breath...





...It gives off a smell that encourages the plants around it to grow.

And as the host grows...



It is a parasite that latches on to animals that have recently been born.

It derives its own nourishment by converting the mother's bodily fluids into milk.



...It leaves the host's body to go out and find a new baby to infect.

Then when the host has used up all its energy...



While that is happening, it forces the host into sleepless work gathering nourishment for it.

And it builds its own strength.





Even...

...If I have
to use the
power that
killed my
mother to
do it.



I'm not a
child who
needs
protecting
all the time
anymore.

There are
people
whose lives
it is up
to me to
protect.



I'm
glad...

I'm
so
glad...



Mother...

...please
forgive
your son
for his
unhappi-
ness!

Chiyo...

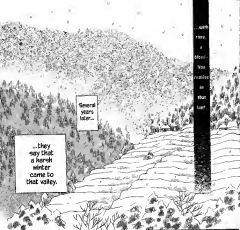
He's already...



...burned
into a
fire...

...husband
and
father...

With
my
blood,
and
blood
from
other
people...



Several
years
later...

...they
say that
a harsh
winter
came to
that valley.

...with
fire,
a
dread-
ful
crisis
in
that
land.



Heey!!

It's
lunch-
time!!





But
even
now...

...the
echoes
of happy
voices ring
throughout
the valley.

The End of the valley The End



Here?

...quitting
and
off at
once...

...the
march of
spring
awaken.

It's
about
time,
huh?

On the
mountain
in late
winter...

...when
the
heart
...has
pined,
tis,
morning
comes...



These
sounds
are the
voices...

...of the
murmur
of the
mountains
carrying the
appetized
day of
awakening.

The Bottom of Winter





But
there's
no
need to
hurry.

I think
I'll hole
up for
a few
days.



Right after
emerging
from hiber-
nation, the
mushi tend to
be hungry and
troublesome.



It's only
natural
that
they'd call
on me.





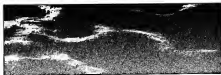
.....
Bull...

...when I
wake up,
it'll be
spring.



it's
still
so
cold...





.....
It's
strangely
quiet.



This
should be
about the
time.

Mrrr...



What
is...

...going
on...?



...
HMP







Aren't
the ones
from this
mountain...

...heading
off to
join the
larger group?



The
Croskibae
are
migrating.



They're
going
back
north.



They've
come
back.



Hmp



How did
I come
back to
reach my
own trail?

I've
been
climbing
steadily
all this
time.



... climbed
off.

The
mountain
has





Is this
related to
the fact that
the winter
mushi can't
migrate?



I
don't
get
it.

I don't
remember
anything
unusual
happening
when I came
to this
mountain.



Maybe I
should
go see
the
master.



I
won-
der...

...what's
hap-
pened
here...?



There's
no
trace of
Mugan's
cabin.

There's
no...
voice.









...that
this
place...

It's
already
spring on
the next
mountain
over...

...he
simply
waiting to
die.



...I'm
going
to get
caught
up in it!

if I
don't do
some-
thing
about
it...



But if
this one
hasn't even
started to
breathe
again, it
means...







**It's
the
master!**



**How long
are you
going to
keep this
mountain
closed?**



Hey!

**Hey,
Master-
dono!**





What's this...?
They're
beginning
to swarm.

They're
coming this
way!









...asleep
all
around
me...?

They're...



...I can
breathe.

I think
I'm
inside
the bag.
But...



There's
kind
swelling
up from
below.



Are they
all healing
from their
wounds
here...?





.....
I'm
glad....



....that
the
mountain
wasn't
going
to
die.

I got
it...
It
wasn't...

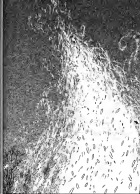


I'm
glad
for
that.









Hey!

Stop
that...!



They're
migrat-
ing.





The mountain...

...has opened up.



POWER

POWER

POWER











...was
because
he had
his eye
on my
KÖKÜ...?



It
couldn't
be...

...the
reason
I got
onto the
mountain
in the first
place...





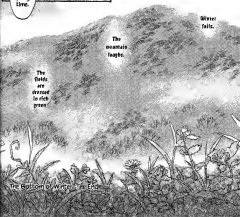
The world's
turned to
spring-
time.

well, it
could
have
been
worse.



Every-
thing...

...just
played
into
Marten-
dono's
hand.



Winter
falls.

The
mountain
laughs.

The
fields
are
dressed
in rich
green.

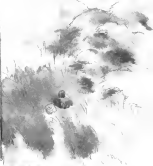
The Bottom of Winter. The End.







The Hidden Channel



Little
Miles!

Go
+
1000



Just stay
calm and
still and
it'll pass.

You're
all right!
You're all
right!



How did you
know that
I couldn't
breathe?

Um...
Gumi?



...and I
heard your
voice from
outside the
window.

.....
I was in the
house a
few minutes
ago...



It's just
what I
thought!
"Gumi, save
me!"

Really?

That's
amazing!



You were
calling out.
"Save me!
Save me!"

I just went
in that
direction
and there
you were.

Say,
Sun...
Stay
with us
always.

Don't
ever go
away,
okay?

Yeah!

Then if you
ever have
a problem
again, just
call me.



I
see.

I had a
glimpse
of the
young lady
from the
waterway.











She quit!
She isn't
our maid
anymore!



That
again?

Don't talk like
a little idiot!
Just forget
about Sumi
already!



That
makes
sense...

There's
a deep
channel
between you
and that
person.



But
Sumi,
even
now...

...know
that I was
having an
attack, and
she told me
that it was all
right.



After
that I
started to
be able to
breathe
again.



They say
there are
paths that
nobody can
see...

...between
the
minds of
people.



.....
"Chama"...



There
are things
that
supplement
our five
senses.

They
flow
within a
"water"
we call
spiritual
energy.



It's
like the
waterways
that run
through
your
village.

All
of your
backyards
are
connected
by the
water.



And every
now and
again, we
can meet
the one we
want to
meet.

But even
so, the
channels
are all
connected.



And
worse,
there's no
map that
shows
where the
waterways
lead.

But...
...there
are times
when the
water
gets low.



"Kakogi?"
That's
what
they're
called.



Or at
times we
experience
what they
call
"messages
from the
buds."

When that
happens,
we may
simultaneously
recall memories
of each other.



...are
"mushi"
that are
working
at our
command.

What
causes
this...



They
live in the
consciousness
of those
with strong
spiritual
energy.

They
conform
to the host
and come
and go at
will in the
domains.

They can
also carry
thoughts to
just about any
person you
want to
communicate
with.



...
Just
like you
can.



...they
could
take you
to where
someone
else is.

...
If you
really
needed
it...



Mushi
have
nothing
to do
with it.

...it
because
she is
constantly
thinking of
me.

The reason I
know what's
going on
with Sumi
even though
we're far
apart...





If the person stops using the power, she might come out unharmed.

...



That's...
...not right?

...



...that the infection has progressed pretty far.

...
Then I guess...



If you take it, the Kairogi can't do their work.

I have some medicine that can dry up spiritual energies.



...
I can't stop.

Every time I suffer an attack now, I'm there with Sumi before I know it.





I'm
going
to go to
her.



If you go
repeatedly
to the same
location,
the Kairagi
'reflect' the
one you visit
as well.

Then
she's
caught
it, too.



The
medi-
cine...

...is for
your
own
good.









Sami....!



If
I was,
then I'm
wrong!

Answer
me!



Sami....!



Answer
me!

Die
you....

...take the
medicine
already!



Are
you
crying....?

What's
wrong? Is
something
the matter?







...the
only
thing
I've
done is
lean on
her?

All
this
time...



Maybe
I...

What
was the
matter?

Something
happened
to her?

...can
help
out a
little.



Girl...

...we
have to
talk.







This is
for the
best.

This
is...

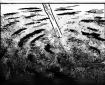


It's
still...



But
it's for
Yuri's
sake.

I'm
very
sorry.











I don't
want to
go this
way...!

Wo!



There
isn't a
standing
pole?



I'm
being
carried...

...I must
slide
the
current...



All of
these
branches...

They look
so close,
but I can't
seem to
reach
them...















Uhh...

Thank
goodness!
She's
come to!

Are
you all
right?!

Yura!!



I'm
going
to
watch...

...until I
see you
swallow
all of that
medicine!



Okay...







Is
that
so...?



After
going to all
the trouble
of writing
that letter,
too...

I'm
hopeless,
huh?



You can
always
go to
visit.



That's
true.

But...

...it
will be
lonely.



The
channels
connect
you two,
like they
always
did.

While
your own
can't be used
anymore...

...you can
always
borrow
somebody
else's boat.











...read
your rain
fortune
for you?

...
Shall
I...



...
read?

I give
up...!



Go...

...when
is it
finally
going to
rain...?!



It's raining!

The fortune teller was right!

It's raining!

Hurry!
Get the jugs out-
doors!!



.....
EHP



.....
Be at ease.

In two more days the blessings of rain will be laid upon you.





Sunshowers

but
you
will
never
find.

A
water
you
may
choose.

What
does not
enter
the
soil?

What creeps
along the
surface of
the ground?
It is false
water.



A
rain
prayer?





It doesn't look as though even a drop of rain will fall anytime soon.

But will it work?



I'm almost out of water.

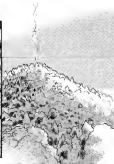
Do you know if there are any watering holes around here?



Hello?

Um...









24
11
11
11





Why do I even argue?

Come on!

Let's try it out!

Er...?

Hey!

Toru wait up!



...when it rains, it will give us all a breather.

But...



The well in town always dries up in summer.



We're digging a well right over there.



...will
you be
going
away
again?

Still...

...when
it
rains...



That's
true.



I
told
you be-
fore...

I
have no
desire
to stay
in one
place.



Yes...



Do you
like
wandering
alone all
over the
place?

Why don't
you stay
and put
down roots
here with
me?!

...
why?





You've
decided
to stay
the
night?



Yes.



So I'm
going
to stick
around to
see.

I have an
interest in
how you
make rain.

Yeah.



Do you
think any
human
has the
power to
make it
rain?



I only
came to
foretell
the
coming
of the
rain.





The
blessing
of rain...



It's
because of
all these
days of
rain.



The
dress
has been
going
around.

wonder...

...what
it's going
to stop?





Why?

Why did this have to happen?





I
cried
and
sailed...

...but
not a
single
bear
came.



You're
going
to...

...stay
with your
grandmother
for a while.



I want
to stay
here!

No!

When
we're
able to
make
a living
again...

...we'll
call you
home.



Try to
put up
with
it.

We...don't
have any
food left.



...we'll
suffer
the same
fate.

If this
keeps
up...



That girl's
home town
was flooded
by rain.
wasn't it?

I
don't
like
this
rain.





...brought
the rain
with her...



It's
as
though...
...that
child...





She
brought
the rain
with her!

It's
that
girl!



.....
It can't
be
true!

How
could
any-
one...







And I
can't
even...

...shed
any tears
to damp
down the
despair
of it.



All
that I
know...

...is that
I don't
have a
home I
can go
back to.



We can't
treat you
as we'd
like, but...

All we
have left
is what's
in our
stores.



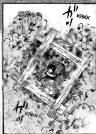
Everybody's
sick of
sitting
around and
waiting.

Should
we be
eating
so much
before it
rains...?

Um...









What's the problem out there?

Headman!

We want to see Teru-san!



I can't let it go on like this...

I have to get this well dug!



It's you...!!

Hey!

Come quick!



It really should come very soon...

You've been saying that for days!



Everybody has completely run out of water!









It's
raining!!

The
rain's
coming
down!

It's
raining!



We'll
have
some
water
for you
soon,
so...



The
rain is
finally
here!

Let's
get
some to
Yoru!



Wow...



Yeah...

Thank
good-
ness...

Huh...?





It's
so
beautiful!

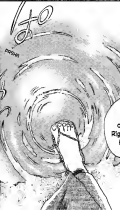






...be able to catch...?











Normally they float
in the sky,
looking
like fine
droplets of water.

They gather
with the
moisture
in the sky,
make the
rain, and fall
with it.



...and
gather
rain
again.

After
which, they
rise into the
air along
with the
evaporating
water...



That's...

...one
type of
mushl
from a
clow
called
Ranpha-
renshi.



...and
take the
form of
runaway
water.

...they
come
close
to the
Earth...

...on
sunny days
continue
and the air
begins to
lose its
moisture...

But...



They have
no purpose.
They just
float
around.



We call
creatures
like that
Drifters.

...they're
a normal
weather
phenomenon.

Aside
from the
fact that
they're
also...



Then they
rise into
the sky and
gather the
rain above
you.

They're
inside you,
stealing the
moisture
away from
your body.



If
you...



If you
touch
one of
them...

...you get
ill.





It isn't...

...anything to lose heart over.



...anything to lose heart over.



I don't know.

But...

...if it's taking longer for the rain to follow you...

...it may be because their power is diminishing.



You've got no choice but to accept the fact that people have died.

You've got no choice but to accept the fact that people have died.



It almost happened this time!

Just a little bit longer and...



Due to this rain...

I've stolen... the lives of countless people.



It's
just...

...a
bunch of
unfortunate
things that
happened.



It
isn't the
Renfrews' fault
either.

Still,
you've
got
nothing
to feel
guilty
for.



True?

You've
thought...

...a lot
more than
just
unhappiness.

On the
other
hand...

...from a
certain point
of view, you've
managed to
use the
Renfrews
very well.



I'm alive
today
because
of you!

Thank
you!



Some-
day...

...the
rain
will
stop...

...and
I'll
cry...

...real
tears...



Come
back...

...and
see us
again
soon!

Promise
me!

Promise
that
you'll
come
back!



...and
like
the
clouds...

...I'll
drift
along.

...I'll
walk
with
the
rain...



Until
then...



Then
I'll find
a spot
on
Earth...

...and
plant
some
roots.



Oh!
This
will
really
help!

We're
coming
back to
life!



It's
true.





But
this is
an odd
rain!

Maybe...

...but it
sure is
beautiful!



Yuri!



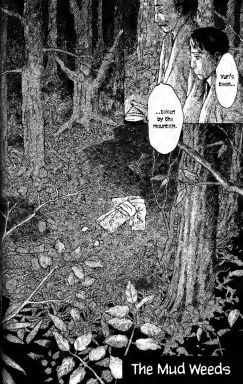
Shigeru!

Over
there!



Where
are
you?!





Yan's
Bottle...

...Bottle
by the
mouth.

The Mud Weeds







That's
how we
think of
it.

They go
back to the
mountain.



And
eventually...

...the
bodies, even
the bones,
vanish,
leaving only
the clothes.



Long,
long
ago...

One man
broke the
taboo
and came
back with
a disease.

It
spread
throughout
the
village.

That
story
has also
been
handed
down.



But...

...until all is
finished, we
are forbidden
to set foot on
the mountain
for seven
days.



These
are...

...buds
of
Mutsuroshi.



.....

That's
why
everyone's
afraid.



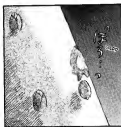
And
anything
else that
steps in
it is also
infected.



When
a living thing
steps into
the mud,
it spreads
the spores
around.



They're
a muck
that take the
corpses of
animals and
breaks them
down until
they're the
consistency
of mud.









And when
I do, they
spread
to my
hands...

I pick
them off
and pick
them off,
but they
always
grow
back.



These are
different
than
everybody
else's.

The
medicine
isn't
working.







Everybody
said
that the
mountain
had taken
her.

When we
searched for
her on the
mountain, all
we found were
her clothes.



Ten
years
ago...

...my
daughter
went
missing.



So I
thought
I'd be
all
right.

...nobody
who went
on the
mountain
came back
with any
discovery.

But...
what I
brought
about
it...



You
saw the
place...

...where
your
brother
returned
to the
mountain?



I
guess
Dad's
fine...



I
wanna
see my
Dad!

It isn't
right for
him to be
left all alone
on the
mountain!



...and
say our
goodbyes
one last
time...



Let's
go...



Yes...







...



These
reeds...

...I'm
living
Dad's
life for
him.



You're
all alone
in the
world,
huh?

...come
and join
my house
as my
son?

Would
you...



...



Okay,
let's
go
home.









It
was very
painful.



We were
especially
close for
brothers.

He
always
looked
up to
me.



...
Not
yet.

There's
still
something
I don't
understand
about
this.

Can you
cure my
uncle?





How would
you describe
your
relationship
between
your father
and uncle as
brothers?

Say...



.....



He'd always
tell stories
of them
together.

My Dad...
always
loved my
uncle.



.....



...my father
stopped
telling
stories of
him.

But...
...ever since
my uncle
lost his
daughter...





I
called
Yuri's
death...



It's
my
fault!

Forgive
me,
Shigeta...



So I took
her to the
mountain.

I
couldn't
tell
you...



She fell
between
the wheels
of the
car...

I don't
know
Yuri was
there!

Why??

Why
would
you
do
this
to
me...!!

I have
a child
of my
own!

And every
time I see
him, it
hurts...

I'm so
sorry,
Shigeru...

I'm so
sorry...









..still
alive
after
all..

So
you're..



Heh..





So
there's
nothing
to worry
about.



So
please...

...try to
think
of this
as just
testing a
theory.



There's
only one
idea...

...that
keeps
coming
back to
me.









...are you saying?

What...



Did you...

...murder my father?



Have you...

...spoken of this to anyone?



I heard it.

Just now...

What the Mushishi said...





But
over...

...If
I had
managed
to control
myself at
the time...

...I knew
that
someday...

...I
would
have
done it.



But...

Why
would
you do
some-
thing
like
that...?

Why...?



I
couldn't
think of
anything
else
to do.

I
was so
angry...



You'll
do it,
too!

Someday...

...you'll
do to
me
what...



Gah...









CLAMP H / Volume 8 The End



Thank you
so much
for picking
up this
volume.

Afterword

■ **The Milk of the Halley** I thought up this story when I saw my cat have kittens and start to get very thin while giving them milk. Seeing all of the kittens fighting to get at her chest area, it looked not so much like they were drinking milk, but rather like they were eating her body.

■ **The Bottom of Water** I've drawn a bear, snake, and catfish as monsters, and I suddenly felt like my life wouldn't be complete until I drew a tortoise. It was like a screen suddenly opened before me. I couldn't help myself.

■ **The Hidden Channel** The title refers to those water channels that are hidden by the trees and greenery. I tried to capture the beauty of the scenery of Yanagawa, but I don't think I did it justice. I love that town.

■ **Susshowers** I'm a rain warden, too. Whenever I go on a trip or to a signing, it rains. On the other hand, I love rain.

■ **The Mud Grass** I closed out the volume with a story that leaves an unpleasant aftertaste, huh? Yeah, but every now and again, a story like this is...not too bad...right? Right?

I hope that you pick up the next volume as well.

Thanks to my helper

Naoko Nagami

Shirley married, copyright

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Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Chishio, page 42

This mushi name is formed from the kanji meaning milk and tide. Written with different kanji for *chi* meaning blood, *chishio* means a spurt of blood, as out of a wound.

Oroshibue, page 59

Oroshi is a Japanese word for a cold wind that blows down from the mountains in the winter. *Fue* is a flute or whistle (the "P" sound changes to a "b" sound according to Japanese linguistic rules). So the mushi name *Oroshibue* indicates the whistling sound of a cold mountain wind in winter.

Mugura, page 61

Mugura is the Japanese word for creeping vines, but in the *Mushishi* world *Mugura* are indicators of the actions of a mushi master of a mountain.

Message from the bugs, page 96

When one gets an unaccountable feeling that something has happened to a loved one and it turns out later to be true, this is what the Japanese call *mushi no shirushi*, "a message from the bugs." Somewhat similar to the English phrase "a little bird told me," a message from the bugs is information from a source that isn't easily identifiable.

Kairogi, page 96

Most *mushi* names in *Mushishi* are a combination of normal, well-known kanji combined to make an easily understandable word. *Kairogi* is an exception. In Japanese, *kai* means waterway, so that makes sense, but I can only guess what the *gi* part of the name is supposed to mean. Also, the single kanji for the name is not commonly used in Japanese; it can be found among the Chinese character lists, but it seems to be scarce even there. The character is made up of two parts: one meaning small and another which means boat. Again, this is understandable, but to combine the meanings into one kanji (instead of forming a compound of two kanji) is unusual for Urushibara-sensei.

Amefurashi, page 169

The kanji for *ame* means rain, and the kanji for *furashi* means to fall.

Drifters, page 170

The Japanese term *nagaremono* has many meanings in Japanese. One is a thing that goes with the flow. *Vagabond* is another meaning found in the dictionary, as is *drifter*. Migrant tribes are also called *nagaremono*.

Mukurosô, page 182

Mukuro is a slightly archaic word for corpse, and *sô* is one of the words for grass. So *Mukurosô* is another perfectly understandable *mushi* name.

Yanagawa, page 217

The town that is the basis for the third chapter in this volume is Yanagawa in the southern part of Fukuoka prefecture (located on the southern island of Kyushu). Its canals—originally irrigation canals, but they were widened and maintained—have become a prime attraction for tourists from all over Japan.